

Embedded Systems Design

CSCE 3612, Section 001

Spring 2026

Class Timings: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 AM – 11:20 AM, Discovery Park NTDP D201

Instructor: Dr. Mosquera, Email: Fernando.mosqueraferrandiz@unt.edu

Student hours: E235H, Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM or by appointment.

Teaching Assistants:

Name: Alireza Mohammadshafie.

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Student hours: Thursday, 11:30 AM to 3:50 PM on F243

Course Webpage: All the course related material will be posted on the course webpage which is available through Canvas (<https://unt.instructure.com/>)

Course Outcomes:

- Differentiate embedded computing systems and general-purpose computing systems and design embedded systems using UML or high-level abstract models.
- Describe the unique architectural features of microprocessor, microcontroller, and DSP.
- Discuss CPU input-output, polling, interrupts, and major components of a computing platform.
- Design software for embedded systems and analyze different scheduling techniques for processes.
- Describe the components and working of an IoT (Internet of Things) system.

Program Outcome Mapping:

- An ability to identify, formulate, and solve complex engineering problems by applying principles of engineering, science, and mathematics
- An ability to develop and conduct appropriate experimentation, analyze and interpret data, and use engineering judgment to draw conclusions
- An ability to acquire and apply new knowledge as needed, using appropriate learning strategies.

Textbook: *Computers as Components: Principles of Embedded Computing System Design* by Marilyn Wolf, Fifth Edition, ISBN: 9780323851282.

Catalog Description: Prerequisite: CSCE 2610, EENG 2710 or ENGR 2720, ENGR 2730. Computer systems as embedded computing elements and micro-controllers. System specification using UML or other high-level abstract models. Issues and constraints on embedded computing systems, including power, performance, memory and size. Use of DSP, ASIC and micro-controllers in a single design.

Topics:

- Introduction to Embedded Systems and its design process
- Instruction sets for ARM, PIC, and DSP
- Introduction to CPUs and co-processors
- Computing platforms and its design
- Program design and analysis
- Introduction to processes and operating systems
- Internet-of-Things (IoT) Systems.

Grading:

Class Activity	5%
Homework	12%
Quizzes	12%
Labs	20%
Midterm Exam (3/3/2026)	21%
Comprehensive Final Exam (05/7/2026)	30%

Class Activity: There will be several class activities during the class session that will reinforce the concepts that we learned in the class. These class activities will be scheduled during the class timing. The solution for class activity will be posted on Canvas.

Homework: Homework will be in the form of problem sets with a due date **one week** after it is assigned. Homework will be assigned on Tuesdays as per the schedule. **No late homework will be accepted.** Homework must be done individually (you will learn the most from this). Any evidence of group participation or direct copying from sources like previous year's solutions, textbook, solutions, Wikipedia, websites, and other sources will be interpreted as academic dishonesty. Using AI (Artificial Intelligence) assisted websites to generate or auto generate solutions will also be interpreted as academic dishonesty. There will be six to seven homework assignments and the solution for homework will be posted on Canvas.

Quizzes: There will be six to seven pop quizzes given throughout the semester. The pop quizzes can be given any time during the class. These will be to reward students who consistently attend the class but will be more than just attendance points. Please make sure you have a simple calculator (not a programmable calculator) to take the quizzes. The solution for quizzes will be posted on Canvas.

Lab Assignments: Lab assignments are an integral part of the course and are intended to provide hands-on experience in the application of the concepts discussed in the lecture. Lab assignments will be assigned on Thursdays as per the schedule and with a due date of **two weeks** after they are assigned. There will be five to six lab assignments assigned. Each of the lab assignments will be used to build the next lab. The last lab will be designed with most of the code from previous labs. Lab assignments must be done individually and can be done on your personal machine. Any evidence of group participation will be interpreted as academic dishonesty. Using AI (Artificial Intelligence) assisted websites to generate or auto generate solutions will also be interpreted as academic dishonesty. The solutions for lab assignments will not be posted on Canvas.

Recitations: The recitations are on Thursdays starting from 11:30 AM to 3:50 PM and it is only mandatory on the days of presentations and lab demonstrations. The TA will be available during the recitation hours in **F243** on Thursdays to help you with the labs or to demonstrate your labs.

Section 202 at NTDP F243 Thursday 11:30 AM - 12:50 PM

Section 203 at NTDP F243 Thursday 1:00 PM - 2:20 PM

Exams: There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. The exams are closed books and closed internet. Mobiles phones are not permitted and browsing the internet is not allowed. Please make sure you have a simple calculator (not a programmable calculator) to take the exams. Exams will include material from the modules, the readings, homework, and labs and should be taken individually and not as a team. The final exam will be comprehensive.

- **Midterm Exam:** Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026, 10:00 AM – 11:20 AM, NTDP D201
- **Comprehensive Final Exam:** Thursday, May 7th, 2026, 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM, NTDP D201

Missing Classes, Assignments, or Exams: Attendance at all exams, quizzes, and class activities is mandatory. Throughout the semester, a student may miss classes, assignments, quizzes, or exams due to many reasons. Most of the reasons will not be accepted as an "excused" absence. Assignments, quizzes, or exams can be made-up only under extraordinary circumstances and only when notification is given to me before the assessment, quiz, or exam is administered. A no-show for an assessment, quiz or exam without prior notification and a verifiable excuse (appropriate official documentation) will result in a grade of zero (0) for that assessment, quiz, or exam.

COVID-19 Impact on Attendance: Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](#) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

Disputing Grades: If you have a dispute about how an assignment, quiz, or exam is graded, you should get the solution to the assignment, quiz, or exam off the course web site and examine it. If you really believe that your answer is correct (matches the answer given in the solution), contact the grader and discuss it with him. The grader will listen to your concern, and act on it, at their discretion. In any case, they will re-grade the assignment and will communicate with you. The solutions for labs will not be posted, so contact the grader to dispute the grade if you have met all the requirements of the labs and you have lost points. Note that instructor or grader addition errors should follow the above procedure. Assignment, quizzes, exam, lab, and homework grades are disputable for **one week** from the day the grades were posted on Canvas.

Syllabus Revisions: This syllabus may be modified as the course progresses. Notice of such changes will be by email or announcement in class.

Class Policies: Please note that portable phones, pagers, and late arrivals are disruptive to the instructor and to your peers. The use of cell phones, beepers, or communication devices is disruptive and is therefore absolutely prohibited during class and exams. Turn off your cell phone while in class and while taking exams. If I catch you using these devices in class or during the exams, the penalty can range from a formal warning to an 'F' for the course and you will be asked to leave the class. Except in emergencies, students using such devices must leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period. I know that some of you may wish to take notes directly on your computer and I have no problem with that. If, however, you choose to access your email, search the web, play games, or instant messenger your friends during class, you will have 5% deducted from your final grade for each transgression. If I am late arriving to the class, it will be because of circumstances beyond my control. You are expected to remain 20 minutes after the scheduled class start time while I attempt to communicate my situation and relay instructions.

Course Policies: You are expected to spend at least 10 hours per week on this course. Keep all your graded assignments, quizzes, and tests for study and review. You should track your own progress using Canvas and be aware of current grades throughout the term. Graded midterm exam, quizzes, and class activities will be returned after you take the final exam. If you would like to look at the graded assignments, meet me during my student hours or set up an appointment. Final grading will be done as follows. **A:** $\geq 90\%$, **B:** $\geq 80\%$ and $< 90\%$, **C:** $\geq 70\%$ and $< 80\%$, **D:** $\geq 60\%$ and $< 70\%$ and **F:** $< 60\%$. Grades will be curved if necessary. Grades cannot be changed after they have been electronically entered

into university's system except for instructor errors. Any extenuating circumstances that may adversely affect your grade must be brought to my attention before the final course grades are recorded. To be considered, such circumstances must be unusual, unavoidable, and verifiable.

Disability Services/Special Needs: UNT complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination including the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services, please contact the Office of Disability Accommodation. Please initiate this process and inform me during the first two weeks of class.

Academic Dishonesty: All the provisions of the University code of academic integrity apply to this course. In addition, it is my understanding and expectation that your signature on any test or assignment means that you neither gave nor received unauthorized aid. For homework and labs, while discussion is allowed, direct copying is not, and students must turn in individual submissions. Using AI (Artificial Intelligence) assisted websites to generate or auto generate solutions will also be interpreted as academic dishonesty. All students are required to know, observe, and help enforce the UNT Code of Student Academic Integrity. Academic dishonesty will result in disciplinary action according to UNT Policy 06.003. The penalty for a first offense can range from a formal warning to an 'F' for the course. Regardless of the penalty imposed, a record of the offense will be kept in the Office of the Dean of Students.

All department policies on Academic Integrity and Student Conduct apply for this course these are available at the following

link: <https://engineering.unt.edu/cse/students/resources/academic-integrity.html>

Any exceptions to these guidelines are noted explicitly in the syllabus

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT): Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The short SPOT survey will be made available during the last week of classes to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught.

ABET Survey: Towards the end of the course, the students will be asked to do an ABET exit survey which will help instructors to quantitatively measure whether the students met the course outcomes stated in the course syllabus. This survey will be conducted during the last week of classes.

Tentative Course Schedule:

	Week	Lecture	Assignments Due
1	01/13 – 01/15	Embedded computing	
2	01/20 – 01/22	Embedded computing	
3	01/27 – 01/29	Embedded computing	Homework 1
4	02/03 – 02/05	Embedded computing	Lab 1
5	02/10 – 02/12	Instruction set	Homework 2
6	02/17 – 02/19	Instruction set	Lab 2
7	02/24 – 02/26	CPUs/Exam Review	Homework 3
8	03/03 – 03/05	Midterm Exam/CPUs	Midterm Exam
9	03/10 – 03/12	Spring Break – No Classes	
10	03/17 – 03/19	Computing platforms	
11	03/24 – 03/26	Computing platforms	Lab 3
12	03/31 – 04/02	Computing platforms	Homework 4
13	04/07 – 04/09	Program design and analysis	Lab 4
14	04/14 – 04/16	Processes and operating systems	Homework 5
15	04/21 – 04/23	Processes and operating systems	Lab 5
16	04/28 – 04/30	Internet-of-Things Systems (IoT)/Exam Review	Homework 6
17	Thursday 5/7/26	7:30 AM to 9:30 AM in NTDP D201	Comprehensive Final Exam